

**What is claimed is:**

1. A method for revoking a public key certificate, comprising:

at the time of issuance, a CA requests and receives from an independent revocation service provider entity a THV corresponding to an IRV under the sole control of said

5 revocation service provider;

embeds such THV into the public key certificate and digitally signs the public key certificate with a private key;

an entity requests revocation from the revocation service provider; and

10 the revocation service provider ceases publication of valid PFI updates for the public key certificate.

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